

# SCOUTS

## Adventure

Scouts were the original mud splattered, outdoor adventurers and we're still going strong. You'll recognise us by our teal green uniform – but be warned, we could just as easily be dressed for canoeing, climbing, hiking or swimming!

Offering plenty of outdoor adventure and the chance to stretch themselves, Scouts encourages girls and boys to take responsibility for themselves and each other, develop team-working, leadership and survival skills, take part in adventurous and sporting activities including camping for up to a week under canvas - often the highlight of their Scouting year.



## 52nd Reading

Our Group was started in 1925, is based at Reading Scout & Guide Headquarters, and over the years, we have grown to become a thriving and dynamic Group numbering over 120 youth and adult members.

The Group is split into three main sections: Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10½) and Scouts (10½-14) and is partnered with Explorers (14-18) – so your child can enjoy many years of Scouting with us!

## Getting Started

Your section leader will let you know when to bring your child along for their first session at Scouts - all they need to do is turn up, have fun, get to make new friends and begin to get a feel for what we're all about and the way things are run.

We will ask you to complete a Personal & Medical Details form so that we have all the information we need about your child and any specific requirements he or she may have. Please let us know immediately if any of these detail changes.

Scouting at 52nd Reading is great value for money and we aim to make it as affordable as possible.

Each term there is a subscription fee to pay – this covers the weekly meeting programme costs, overheads and the national membership fee we pay to The Scout Association. There is normally an extra charge for adventurous activities, trips and camps.

We would never want any of our Scouts to miss out, so if you are having difficulty paying the subscription or activity fee, please speak to your section leader and we will see what we can do to help.

## The Scout Troop

Our Scout Troop is the senior section in the Group, organised into Patrols, with a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader in charge. Adult Leaders are on hand to provide support and guidance.

Normal sessions are every Thursday during term-time. Scouts may start to arrive from 7.00pm onwards, we start the evening with "Flag Break" at 7.15pm and the session ends at 9.00pm.

Please be aware that we have to have a minimum number of adult leaders present to run each session so, if you bring your child to the session, please do not leave them without checking that it is ok to do so.

Before each session, our leaders are busy setting up, so if you have anything you want to discuss, please speak to Skip or one of the other adult leaders at the end of the meeting.

## Uniform

Skip will tell you when your child is ready to make their Scout Promise and be invested into the Pack. This is normally between four and six weeks after joining. At this time you will need to buy the Scout uniform teal shirt, scarlet Group scarf (necker), a woggle (to secure the necker) and also a purple Group polo shirt.

The shirt, necker and woggle can be bought at the Scout Shop, next door to our meeting hall - please give a copy of the receipt to your section leader as we can claim back 10% to benefit the Group. The purple Group polo shirt should be ordered through your section leader.

At the investiture ceremony, your child will be presented with a set of badges to show that they are now a full member of the 52nd Reading Scout Troop.

During their time in Scouts, your child will gain many more badges which should be sewn on to their uniform (preferably by them!) as shown to the right.

Full Scout uniform should be worn to all sessions and activities unless told otherwise.



## Programme

We design each term's programme to help the Scouts have a balanced range of activities and work towards achieving a number of the Challenge and Activity Badges. In addition a Scout may choose to work on a badge individually, at home. The programme will be sent out before the first session of each term.

Please note that we may ask Scouts to help clear and clean up after a session – on those occasions they have a slightly delayed finishing time.

## Activities

Some activities will take place away from the Scout Hut or require other specific parental consent. In these cases you will be required to complete a permission form so that your Scout may join in.

For walks, wide games and other outdoor activities appropriate clothing (rather than uniform) and sturdy footwear will be needed. Man-made fabrics are quicker drying and are more suitable than cotton. If not suitably kitted out, your Scout will not be able to come with us. Sometimes a Thursday session will be cancelled if an activity is arranged at the weekend.

## Transport

To reduce the number of cars travelling and from Scout sessions, we ask that, wherever possible, you arrange to share lifts with other parents.

It is especially important when the activity is away from the Scout Hut, that you ensure you know where we are meeting and arrive on time. It is very awkward to have to contact or wait for late-comers and may even mean that we can't complete the activity or finish on time.

## Behaviour

Our aim is to help all of our Scouts to learn and develop in an enjoyable and productive environment and expect them to do their best to abide by the Scout Law and Promise.

We aim to deal with any misbehaviour appropriately and immediately, and will only escalate to you if necessary. In the event of persistent or extreme misbehaviour we reserve the right to ask you to remove your child from the troop.

## Contact

Phil Hargreaves (Skip)

Mobile: 07887 297474

Email: [SL@52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk](mailto:SL@52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk)

To save on the cost of paper, it would help us if you always provide an email address we can use for correspondence.

## Get Involved

All the adult leaders and administrators are trained volunteers - they give their time, without payment, to organise and run the Group and its activities because they believe that Scouting changes lives and helps children to fulfil their full potential.

If you have a hobby, skill or interest that you would like to share with us, to be involved by helping at your child's section meetings, by being a member of our Exec Committee, or in any other way, please speak to your section leader or email our Group Scout Leader on [GSL@52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk](mailto:GSL@52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk) – it's very rewarding and can also be a lot of fun!



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Keep up to date with everything to do with the Group on:  
**[www.52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk](http://www.52ndReadingScoutGroup.org.uk)**